

GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

DELIVERING FOR THE LATINO COMMUNITY



Governor Whitmer is focused on delivering for the Latino community. She made the biggest investments in Michigan's public schools ever, saved thousands of lives leading through the COVID-19 pandemic, and put people back to work with more skills in good-paying jobs. The Governor made progress on the kitchen-table fundamental issues—jobs, roads, water, education, childcare, and more—with the most diverse cabinet and executive office in state history by her side.

ENSURING EQUITY & INCLUSION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

- Appointed 69 Latinos, a record number, to cabinet positions, judicial roles, and commissions at the state level.
- Signed a proclamation marking Hispanic heritage month in order to honor all of the important contributions to Michigan from residents of Spanish and Latin American descent.
- Blocked the sale of a former state prison that was proposed as the site of a privately operated ICE – federal immigration – detention center and partnered with the federal government and Starr Commonwealth in Kalamazoo to ensure quality care for unaccompanied minors in Michigan.
- Hosts quarterly meetings in partnership with the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan with Latino stakeholders to provide updates and get direct input on key government decisions, from policy to appointments.
- Launched the ongoing Thriving Cities Listening Tour in 2019 and traveled to 18 cities across the state to hear input directly from Michiganders on how the state can support urban core communities. The second listening tour was announced in 2021.



"Michigan is fortunate to count among its population a large number of residents of Spanish and Latin American descent, who grow businesses, offer innovative ideas, strengthen our economy, create jobs, and contribute to our daily lives."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

QUALITY PUBLIC HEALTH AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- Extended Healthy Michigan to nearly 900,000 people and suspended the Medicaid work requirement that created barriers to coverage.
- Issued Executive Orders and Public Health orders that prioritized the public health and safety of Latinx Michiganders through mandates for testing, isolation housing and other essential needs in both rural and urban communities.
- Established the Racial Disparities Task Force and made "lasting structural change" in addressing racial disparities associated according to a study by Duke University.
 - This report highlights the narrowing of the decline in disparities in case rates among Hispanic or Latino Michiganders in response to the Task Force's work.
 - This Task Force funded and coordinated Latino neighborhood testing and vaccination sites and ensured a multi-lingual public health education campaign.
- Declared racism a public health crisis and required all medical professionals to undergo unconscious bias training to improve healthcare equity and target disparities.
- Launched the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies initiative to reduce disproportionate racial infant mortality and ensures moms have the support they need for healthy pregnancies.
- Laid out plans to reduce health disparities by using community navigators to improve access to health coverage, and set up the Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office in the Dept. of Health and Human Services.
- Created the COVID-19 Migrant Community Response Group to provide access to state-funded testing, vaccinations, isolation housing and financial support for migrant farm workers and food system workers in the state of Michigan.

INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY CHILDCARE, EDUCATION, AND SKILLS OPPORTUNITIES

- Made the largest investment in K-12 schools in state history—without raising taxes.
 - Gave every school district the same per-pupil funding. The dollars will go to newer textbooks, better gym equipment, and smaller class sizes, which will improve every student’s in-school experience.
- Prioritized equity in education by dedicating more dollars to at-risk, English language learners, and special education students in every budget (‘20, ‘21, and ‘22).
- Tripled the number of literacy coaches in schools to help every child read by third grade.
- Expanded access to free preschool for 22,000 more four-year olds through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program including serving almost 7,000 more children in Wayne County.
- Proposed a record \$1.4 billion investment in federal childcare funding to keep your local childcare provider open and expand access to low or no-cost childcare for working families earning less than \$53,000 for a family of four.
- Settled lawsuit reaffirming every kid’s constitutional right to literacy.
- Established and fully funded programs to provide hundreds of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training that leads to a high-skill, good-paying job.
 - Michigan Reconnect, a program that pays tuition of Michiganders 25 and up to pursue an associate degree or earn a skills certificate in high-demand careers.
 - Futures for Frontliners, providing a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic.

REBUILDING OUR ROADS, BRIDGES, HOUSING, AND WATER SYSTEMS

- Started the first 21 state highway construction projects under the \$3.5 billion Rebuilding Michigan plan without an increase at the pump. The projects support 22,800 jobs.
- Invested \$196 million to repair or replace 100 local bridges in serious or critical condition, creating 2,500 jobs.
- Launched MI Clean Water, a \$500 million drinking and wastewater infrastructure plan supporting 7,500 good-paying jobs to make water more affordable, protect families from lead and toxic contaminants, and fix overflowing sewers to prevent flooding.